

Evansville Mayor-Elect Terry Attends Harvard Program At Bloomberg Center

DECEMBER 2023

Mayor-elect Stephanie Terry announced she was selected as one of the 29 newly-elected U.S. mayors to participate in the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University's Program for New Mayors: First 100 Days.

Through the first 100 days in office, the Mayor-Elect will gain world-class tools and training from the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School to set strategic priorities and build effective organizations.

Over the next five months, Mayor Terry will take part in world-class training offered by Harvard faculty, government innovation leaders from Bloomberg Philanthropies, urban innovation and management experts, and other mayors. Topics include how to set strategic citywide priorities,



build effective city hall organizations, and deliver for residents. The program is delivered in collaboration with the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School.

"Effective mayors build strong city teams and robust citywide coalitions that move communities forward," said Mayor-elect Terry. "I am proud to be selected to join this prestigious program and learn alongside other U.S. mayors and global experts as we work to strengthen the capabilities our city needs to lead and deliver on our most pressing challenges and opportunities."

To kick off participation, the Mayor joined 29 other newly-elected U.S. mayors for a two-day immersive classroom experience at Harvard University. The mayors hail from 21 states and together represent 10.5 million residents nationwide.

As cities find themselves on the frontlines of addressing increasingly global challenges, the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard's Program for New Mayors is designed to help the new mayors make the most of their roles. Participants gain strategic insight into how to strengthen critical leadership and management skills, build and lead teams to work across departments and sectors and build out their city hall organization in the first days and months of their administrations.

In addition to the core coursework and convenings with peers, the Program for New Mayors provides opportunities to share strategies with other mayors through the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard's vast mayoral leadership network and learn about interventions that are already working effectively in other cities to better resident lives.

The Program for New Mayors is offered by the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University,

home to a fast-growing global community committed to improving public Philanthropies, which encompasses all the giving of Michael R. Bloomberg, the 108th mayor of New York City, the center's cross-Harvard collaboration unites expertise focused on cities across disciplines and schools to produce research, train leaders, and develop resources for global use. The center is designed to have widespread impact on the future of cities, where more than half of the world's people now live, by informing and inspiring local government leaders, scholars, students, and others who work to improve the lives of residents around the world. The Program for New Mayors builds on the longstanding tradition of a seminar for new mayors that originated at the Institute of Politics in 1975.

For more information and the full list of 30 new participating mayors, visit cityleadership.harvard.edu/program/program-for-new-mayors.

46th Anniversary Of 1977 UE Plane Crash Commemorated



DECEMBER 2023

On the cold and drizzly night of December 13, 1977, a chartered DC-3 crashed slightly after takeoff from Evansville's Dress Regional Airport. Members of the UE community soon learned that this plane included men's basketball Coach Bobby Watson, 14 players, 11 team friends, and a plane crew of 5. For those who remember the crash, it's known as "the night it rained tears."

This event was a shocking loss to the UE community. At a memorial service held a few days later, Dr. Philip Ott, then-professor of philosophy and religion, said "we do not choose to live. We do not choose to die. Life is a gift. "Former UE President Wallace Graves reminded the community, "Out of the agony of this hour we will rise."

While this tragedy will always be

remembered, the University of Evansville came together in strength and unity to move forward and carry on as a tribute to those who were lost.

To commemorate the 46th anniversary and remember these lives, UE held a memorial service on Wednesday, December 13, that was open to the campus community and public. The service was held at Memorial Plaza on campus, where a moment of silence. 46 years later to remember each life that was taken much too early.

The University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university located in the southwestern region of Indiana. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative, academic excellence and vibrant campus community of changemakers.

CCO Enjoys Success In 2023

DECEMBER 2023

The City-County Observer has grown extensively over the past 20-plus years. We owe this growth to both our readers and our advertisers as a whole. 2023 has so far proven to be yet another huge year for the City-County Observer.

A couple of times this year the site was down for some time during the year due to server overload, but our publication still managed to meet our page review goals for this year. The City-County Observer was accessed from every state of the Union, and 63 countries worldwide so far in 2023.

The City-County Observer also celebrated its annual "Community Service Awards luncheon" in 2023 to a sellout crowd at the BALLY'S-Evansville in November. This annual event solidifies its place as a legitimate form

of recognition for our local community leaders.

In addition to this year's successful annual "Community Service Awards" luncheon, the City-County Observer revamped its entire website with a new theme. The new theme has been well received and has drastically increased the reach of the City-County Observer to potential readership.

The City-County Observer has secured another mutual agreement with Thestate-housefiles.com to share articles to be published in the CCO. The agreement has helped the City-County Observer meet the expectations of its place to bring current and breaking news from around the state to its readers. Thestate-housefiles.com is a highly regarded Indiana news publication run by Franklin College journalism students

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Commentary

George Santos And What The Lies Reveal

NOVEMBER 2023

By John Krull

The expulsion from the U.S. House of Representatives of the Republican from New York came more decisively than expected with more than 300 members—and almost half of the GOP caucus—voting to oust the fabulist who tried to sell fibs in a wholesale fashion. He was only the sixth person—and the first who had not been convicted of a crime or rebelled against the U.S. government—to be stripped of his seat.

Even the 114 who voted to keep Santos around didn't do so out of any affection for him.

No, they worried that a vote for expulsion absent a criminal finding would set a dangerous precedent.

It's easy to understand their thinking. If being caught lying becomes reason enough to unseat members of Congress, it could become difficult for the House to summon a quorum and conduct business.

The Republicans who opted to pitch Santos overboard did so because they couldn't afford to carry his weight any longer.

The GOP holds a whisker-thin majority in the House. As the 2024 election season gathers steam, Republican congressional candidates feared with good reason that Democrats

would make Santos the Botox-enhanced face—paid for with campaign funds—of the GOP.

It would not have been a good look.

Republicans from Santos' home state had been screaming that ever since his vast array of deceptions had been revealed following his election in 2022. Party officials from his home district on Long Island began demanding his ouster almost as soon as the votes were counted because they knew his presence would weigh down every other Republican candidacy

there.

So, it's not surprising that so many Republicans determined Santos needed to be carried out with the trash.

A more interesting question is determining how Santos came to occupy his seat in the first place.

The American political landscape always has been littered with figures such as Santos, desperate characters who attempt to pass off fiction after fiction in their quests for attention and validation.

Most often, their stories are sad ones—tales of wounded human beings hungry to have voters fill holes in their lives opened by wrenching traumas.

Here in Indiana, I've covered such

candidates.

One has run for office, on and off, for decades.

When I first encountered him, he traipsed into the newsroom where I worked at the time to talk with a few of us who wrote about politics. He talked at length about a fictitious family connection with a prominent Democratic Party operative and the marital troubles of a Republican elected official, among other fables he conjured up.

Newspapers were staffed more robustly in those days.

As soon as this Hoosier fabulist left the newsroom, we began placing calls to verify his claims.

Within an hour, we had determined that every one of them was a whopper. None of what he said made it into print—and the fact that he had spun so many lies with this made us extra careful both about fact-checking anything he said or giving him any ink.

That was then.

This is now.

Even though there were journalists who reported on Santos and his penchant for prevarication before he was elected, their work doesn't have the reach or achieve the penetration with audiences newspapers once had.

Santos was able to exploit the struggles of the news business.

The result is that the citizens of his district for all practical purposes have been left without representa-

tion for almost a year. The rest of the nation has been saddled with a distraction our country could ill afford.

Santos, of course, isn't the only politician to see the news coverage vacuum as an opportunity to sell lies as if they were candy bars. Many other candidates—including a certain former president facing multiple criminal charges—know they can stack fib upon fib with impunity, secure in the knowledge that, even when reported, their fabrications will do them little lasting harm.

George Santos rode into office because one of the safeguards protecting voters from purveyors of deceit has disintegrated.

His motivation for doing so likely was more pathetic than malicious, springing from a desire for once to be seen as worthy.

He is a figure to be pitied rather than feared.

The next time, we may not be so lucky.

FOOTNOTE: John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students. The views expressed are those of the author only and should not be attributed to Franklin College.

City-County Observer posted this article without opinion, bias or editing.

CenterPoint Files Request To Add Modernization To Its Investments

DECEMBER 2023

Evansville – Dec. 5, 2023 – CenterPoint Energy's Indiana Electric business today filed a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) requesting an adjustment to base rates and charges. The regulatory filing, known as a base rate case, is the utility's first request since 2009.

The regulatory filing requests an increase to recover incurred costs associated with completed capital projects over the past 14 years to support safe and reliable service to the company's 150,000 customers, including:

Transmission and distribution system upgrades to replace aging infrastructure and modernization of the energy grid;

Automated metering technology

that has reliably served customers for several years; and

Projects needed to comply with federally mandated environmental requirements.

Additionally, the request is needed to recover costs associated with CenterPoint Energy's transition from a majority coal generation portfolio to one led with renewables, which includes the Posey Solar facility and two new, natural gas combustion turbines expected to be in service in 2025. With a continued focus on sustainability and cost-effectiveness, these projects are part of the previously announced generation transition plan to retire 700 megawatts of the company's aging coal operations through 2025.

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Community

Fall 2023 Senior Art Show On Display Into 2024

DECEMBER 2023

The University of Southern Indiana Fall 2023 Senior Art Exhibition is on display in the Arts Center Monday, December 4 through Friday, January 19, 2024. For the first time, the exhibition will take over the public spaces

of the Arts Center and transform the whole building into a gallery. Students exhibiting are seniors and will be showcasing the art they have worked on throughout their careers as artists/designers. The student artists are Rich Bennett, Ethan Brinkley, Caitlyn

Ebert, Osborne Fithian, Courtney Gardner, Danielle Bohlen, Inka Kobylanski, Semira Pearson, Megan Raleigh, Jessica Shearer, Al Sheets, Steven Steele, Ethan Thieneman, Jaeda Thomason and Maliah White. To learn more about the artists

and to get a sneak peek of their work, visit useniorexhibition-fall2023.weebly.com. A reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. Friday, December 15 in the Arts Center. This event is open to the public at no charge.

Nation's Largest Private Fitness Provider Moves To Evansville

DECEMBER 2023

Evansville – Genesis Health Clubs announced the acquisition of Tri-State Athletic Club, effective immediately. The club, now known as Genesis Health Clubs – Tri-State Athletic Club, represents the 66th in the ever-growing Genesis portfolio, and the first in Indiana. Genesis Health Clubs Owner and President Rodney Steven II commented on the acquisition: “We are so excited and proud of great tradition of Tri-State and this fits our love for fitness and tennis - this facility is the centerpieces of their community. We are looking forward to reinvesting in the facility to make sure they remain local destinations for decades to come. There’s no better example than the Tri-State

Athletic Club when it comes to serving its members. With a fifty-plus year history of tennis, group fitness, and a solid base of all sorts of classes, programming, and upscale amenities, it’s a perfect union.” Thomas Myers, TSAC Owner, expressed excitement about the new ownership. “We knew we couldn’t just sell to anyone. There’s over 50 years of history here, and it’s important to us that our members and staff can count on the club being owned by someone passionate about tennis and fitness who is here to stay. We know the club is



in good hands with Genesis.” Steven continued, expanding on Martin’s sentiments, “We plan to welcome the staff into the Genesis family and bring them 401k plans, health insurance, and a lot of the benefits that can be hard to come by in the industry sometimes. Staff is family at Genesis and they’re about to join a great one. As for the members, this is such an exciting time for them. They’ll continue with the same great programming they’ve got right now, but we’ll also be reinvesting in the facility, and they will gain

access to our clubs in the region, plus more than 65 others across 9 states. We’ve got big plans for Evansville now and in the future, and we can’t wait to share more soon!” About Genesis Health Clubs Genesis Health Clubs, the largest and fastest-growing privately owned fitness provider in the United States, now operates 66 locations in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, and now Indiana. With premium amenities, dynamic classes, world-class training, and many locations offering tennis and swimming, our members will find enjoyment and results on their path to living a healthy and balanced life.

How To Comfort A Candidate Who Recently Lost An Election

DECEMBER 2023

By Kyle Hannon
Indiana Citizen

“I’m sorry you lost the election. I’m glad you ran.” That is an appropriate thing to say to someone who just lost a municipal election. Please don’t say, “Hey, you can run again!” Every election cycle, some people are elected to public office. That means other people find themselves as new members of club they never wanted to join. This club has only one requirement: You lost an election for public office. I’ve been a member of that club. I’ve talked to several other members in different communities, and from different political affiliations. We all agree. It’s not a fun club. As the election fades, our communities start to focus on settling into a new or returning administration and council. Life goes on and our communities will be facing new challenges and opportunities. We selected officeholders to help us meet those challenges and opportunities. Before we get too far into the celebrations of the new officeholders, please take a moment to consider the candidates who return to being regular citizens. The unsuccessful candidates spent a huge

amount of time and effort campaigning for office. They had dreams and aspirations for making their communities better. They may have worked just as hard as the winning candidates. They spent months, possibly years, on their campaign. But as of 6 p.m. on election night the ballots were cast and they learned were not successful. A frequent sentiment of people outside the political arena is, “I could never run for office.” Technically, it is very easy to file the paperwork to become a candidate. The age and residency requirements are pretty straightforward. Realistically, running a campaign is much more challenging. Running for office, even a local office, is very time-consuming and expensive. Keep in mind that the losing candidate also raised money, planned advertising and promotions, and attended public events, happily. In other words, they did everything they could to make sure the community knew they were running for office. Then, they were not chosen by a majority of you. If they met their goals of letting the community know they were a candidate, now that same community knows they lost. The day after the election, they still visit the same grocery stores,

coffee shops, and restaurants. Yesterday, they were smiling, shaking hands, and asking for your vote. Today, they know that you know they are the one who lost. They can only guess if you voted for them or against them. Even worse, due to low public participation and a lack of knowledge of local elections, they may have to explain to you that the election was yesterday and that they lost. If you are a person who didn’t know the election just happened, please don’t say, “Gosh. I would have voted for you.” (That happens.) Unfortunately, a candidate may have been the target of a negative campaign. These efforts may be effective, but they are negative, and they hurt. Now the unsuccessful candidate is wondering whether friends and neighbors believed the advertising and have a different opinion of them. Some of the logistics for a successful campaign become burdens for an unsuccessful campaign. A visible example is the campaign yard sign. For months, candidates tried to get yard signs in prominent locations. Now, each of those signs is a painful, public reminder. In my first unsuccessful campaign, I couldn’t bear to look at them. So, my wife and I tried to collect all the signs election night. Other candidates I spoke with told the property owners to throw away the signs after the election. But what if the property owner doesn’t throw away the signs and you drive by that yard every day? What if you purchased a billboard that will continue to be in place for the rest of November, or even longer if the billboard is not sold to someone else? With presidential elections and congressional elections, you probably don’t personally know the candidate. Even elections for the state legislature involve larger districts, meaning you may not know the candidates. With municipal elections, outside the larger cities, you

probably personally know the candidates for mayor, clerk-treasurer, and town or city council. How do they feel today? In my book, I spoke with Tina Weldy, a licensed mental health counselor. She said has worked with losing candidates. She describes the candidates’ feelings of grief and profound disappointment. If the candidate is having trouble letting go, she recommends mental exercises to help the candidate realize they are not a “loser.” Realize, instead, that a lot of people voted for them and thought they would be great. “You put a lot of energy into this and I noticed you didn’t win. I’ve been thinking about you and wondered how you are doing since the election,” Weldy suggested. “I’m really sorry you lost,” is a comment I appreciated after my defeats. Though losing candidates don’t want to hear that they should run again, and may vow to never run again, it is interesting how many re-enter the campaign fray some time down the road. I think it is because this club they just joined – the ones who lost – is a group of people who thought they could improve the community and were willing to put themselves out there in public contests. The public starts thinking about them, not as unsuccessful candidates, but as public servants. If we are lucky, they will heal, and be back to make the community better. FOOTNOTE: Kyle Hannon is the author of *The One Who Lost: When Your Campaign Doesn’t Work and other books*. He lost an election for state representative and a Republican caucus election for city council. Several years later, he won an election for an At-Large City Council seat in Elkhart. Currently, he lives in Bloomington, where he is the president of Filibuster Press, LLC and works in community improvement and trail development. www.filibusterpress.com

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions pertaining to county governmental issues contact me.

Ben Shoulders

812-435-5241

bshoulders@vanderburghgov.org

Paid for and Authorized by Shoulders for Commissioner

A portrait of Ben Shoulders, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie, smiling.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE'RE GOING



A LOOK AT EVANSVILLE'S 2023 HIGHLIGHTS + A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING IN 2024!

From concerts to riverboats to rodeos and conventions, the hospitality community of Evansville welcomed thousands of visitors to our bend of the Ohio River this year. Here is a look at some of the top events hosted in 2023 and a sneak peek into what's to come in 2024 and beyond.



Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex hosted a combined 39 sports tournaments in 2023, generating over \$9 million in economic impact.



Evansville welcomed the American Heritage over a series of eight stops in 2023. We care so grateful to our attractions, hospitality partners, community leadership, and volunteers, and we look forward to hosting more stops in 2024.

2023 marked the return of the Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses to Evansville. Thousands of visitors gathered at the Ford Center over two weekends in June. The partnership remains strong, as Evansville will host the event again in 2024.



In late 2022, it was announced that Evansville had been selected as a WWII American Heritage City by the National Park Service. This honor positioned our community to attract new visitors and interest from military and reunion groups.



Your local convention and visitors bureau got a new look. Introducing Explore Evansville, the community's official sales and marketing agency for tourism. We love that our new identity represents us: where history meets modernity.



Evansville welcomed thousands of visitors to the 48th Annual Frog Follies. This massive festival, hosted at the end of August at the Vanderburgh Co 4H fairgrounds, is the largest pre 1949 car show in the world.

COMPANY'S COMING!

Check out this list of newly booked events and conventions coming to River City! Be the first to know about upcoming meetings, conventions and tournaments when you subscribe to our E-Tourism Newsletter. Scan the code to subscribe!



2024 GLVC Swimming & Diving Championships* | February 7 - 10, 2024
2024 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$582,026
Total Room Attendees: 750

IHSAA 2024 State Wrestling Tournament | February 16 - 17, 2024
Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$3,336,280
Total Room Attendees: 3,000

Indiana Tourism Association 2024 Conference | March 11 - 13, 2024
Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$78,361
Total Room Attendees: 100

NCAA 2024 DII Men's Basketball Elite Eight* | March 30-31, 2024
Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$308,506
Total Room Attendees: 400

2024 Total Solar Eclipse | April 8, 2024
Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$7,744,370
Total Room Attendees: 8,000

Rotary District Conference 2024 | April 19 - 21, 2024
Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$138,722
Total Room Attendees: 300

**In partnership with the Evansville Region Sports Commission*

Community

Warning From The BBB: The 12 Scams Of Christmas

DECEMBER 2023

With 2023 quickly winding down, Better Business Bureau has compiled our naughty list of the top 12 scams of Christmas. When shopping or donating this holiday season, watch out for schemes trying to swipe your cash or steal your personal information.

You can avoid most of the scams on this list by taking a few simple precautions. Always exercise caution with social media ads promoting discounted items, holiday events, job opportunities and donation requests, as well as direct messages from strangers. If you are asked to make a payment or donation by wire transfer, through a third party, or by pre-paid debit or gift card, treat it as a red flag.

1. Misleading social media ads: As you scroll through your social media feed, you often see products advertised. Always research before you buy. BBB Scam Tracker receives daily reports of people paying for items that they never receive, getting charged monthly for a free trial they never signed up for, or receiving an item that is counterfeit or much different from the one advertised. The 2022 BBB Online Scams Report found that online purchase scams were the most common cons reported to Scam Tracker. Before ordering, check out the business profile on BBB.org and read the reviews.

2. Social media gift exchanges: Each holiday season this scheme pops back up, and this year is no different. The older version was called "Secret Sister." A newer version of this scam revolves around exchanging bottles of wine; another suggests purchasing \$10 gifts online. Another twist asks you to submit your email to a list where participants get to pick a name and send money to strangers to "pay it forward." There is even a twist about "Secret Santa Dog" where you buy a \$10 gift for your "secret dog."

In all of these versions, participants unwittingly share their personal information, along with those of their family members and friends, and are further tricked into buying and shipping gifts or money to unknown individuals. And—it's an illegal pyramid scheme. Stick to buying your friends gifts from trustworthy businesses, and check BBB.org before you buy.

3. Holiday apps: Apple's App Store and Google Play list dozens of holiday-themed apps where children can video chat live with Santa, light the menorah, watch Santa feed live reindeer, track his sleigh on Christmas Eve or relay their holiday wish lists. Review privacy policies to see what information will be collected. Be wary of free apps, as they can sometimes contain more advertising than apps that require a nominal

fee. Free apps can also contain malware. Be sure to read reviews as well.

4. Fake texts that say you've been hacked: BBB receives tons of reports on Scam Tracker about fake texts and emails, many of them claiming your Amazon, PayPal, Netflix or bank account has been compromised. Victims are told there has been suspicious activity on one of their accounts, and it further urges them to take immediate action to prevent the account from being compromised. Be extra cautious about unsolicited calls, emails, and texts; contact the business directly and don't click on any links.

5. Free gift cards: Nothing brings good cheer like the word "FREE." Scammers have been known to take advantage of this weakness by sending bulk phishing emails requesting personal information to receive free gift cards. In some of these emails, scammers impersonate legitimate companies and promise gift cards to reward their loyal customers. They may also use pop-up ads or send text messages with links saying you were randomly selected as the winner of a prize.

If you have received an unsolicited email with gift card offers, do not open it. Instead, mark it as spam or junk. However, if you opened the email, do not click on any links.

6. Temporary holiday jobs: Re-

tailers typically hire seasonal workers to help meet the demands of holiday shoppers. Shippers and delivery services are top holiday employers this year because of the increase in online orders and the need to get most of these packages delivered before Christmas. These jobs are a great way to make extra money, sometimes with the possibility of turning into a long-term employment opportunity. However, job seekers need to be wary of employment scams aimed at stealing money and personal information from job applicants. Keep an eye out for opportunities that seem too good to be true.

7. Look-alike websites: The holiday season brings endless emails offering deals, sales and bargains. Be wary of emails with links enclosed. Some may lead to look-alike websites created by scammers to trick people into downloading malware, making dead-end purchases and sharing private information. If you are uncertain about the email, do not click any of the links. Instead, hover over them to see where they reroute. Go directly to the official website; you can check their listing on BBB.org/search to verify you have the right one.

8. Fake charities: The last few weeks of the year is a busy time for charitable donations. Donors are advised to look out for fraud

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OUR NEW STATE OF THE ART OFFICE



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Community

BBB: The 12 Scams Of Christmas

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ulent charities and scammers pretending to be individuals in need. Avoid impromptu donation decisions to unfamiliar organizations. Responsible organizations will welcome a gift tomorrow as much as they do today. Verify a charity at BBB's Give.org. Where possible, donate to the charity through their website and use a credit card.

9. Fake shipping notifications: More consumers are making purchases online, and there is also an increase in the number of notifications about shipping details from retailers and carriers. Scammers are using this new surge to send phishing emails with links enclosed that may allow unwanted access to your private information or download malware onto your device. They may also try to trick people into paying new shipping fees.

10. Advent calendars: This year, there seem to be more advent calendars for sale than ever; CNN has a list of over 60 calendars, and



many are in hot demand. In past years, BBB received reports to Scam Tracker about advent calendar ads on social media not delivering as promised. Some were not received, and others received inferior products or incomplete orders. Consumers should research before they buy, read reviews and look up the company on BBB.org before purchasing. BBB also has a shopper's guide to help you purchase that niche advent calendar.

11. Top holiday wishlist items: Low-priced luxury goods, jewelry, designer clothing and electronics are almost always cheap counterfeits and knockoffs. The same applies to popular toys. This year,

Barbie and Ken, Bitzee and Paw Patrol headphones are some of the items in high demand. Be very cautious when considering purchasing popular toys from resellers on Facebook Marketplace and other platforms.

12. Puppy scams: Many families may be considering adding a furry friend to their household this year. However, be on the lookout for scams. Many would-be pet owners turn to the internet to find their future cat or dog, but experts say a shocking 80% of sponsored pet advertisements may be fake. Be sure to see the pet in person before making a purchase.

CCO Enjoys Success In '23

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and will provide up-to-date news on developments statewide.

Our "Working Outside The Box" monthly luncheon has been a phenomenal success. The recent presentation by Vanderburgh County Sheriff Noah Robinson was extremely informative and well-received.

The City-County Observer's mission is to continue providing the people of this region with current news that they need and expect from a local media source.

In conclusion, the City-County Observer is preparing for another phenomenal year of continuing to be your "Community Newspaper" for the region. Only so much of our success may be credited to us. The rest is a credit to our readers and advertisers without whom we would not exist.

Thank you sincerely for your continued readership and support we look forward to seeing you on our site for the rest of the year and years to come!

CenterPoint Files Request To Add Modernization To Its Investments

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"This request is based on the need to maintain a safe, resilient and reliable system to further meet the current and future energy needs of the southwestern Indiana region, said Richard Leger, Senior Vice President, Indiana Electric. "Our greatest commitment to our 150,000 customers is to maintain the level of service they have come to expect – reliably, safely and in a cost-effective manner."

Some key benefits southwestern Indiana electric customers have experienced as a result of the investments made since the last rate case filed in 2009 include:

Since 2016, Indiana Electric has inspected and treated more than 80 percent of its wood pole population. Through this process, poles that have reached the end of their useful service life have been replaced, and the life of serviceable poles extended, thus ultimately reducing customer outages resulting from pole failures.

Vegetation trimmed around nearly 7,000 miles of electric distribution lines, reducing the number of customer outages caused by vegetation

contact.

Additional distribution substations have been constructed to support regional customer and industrial growth and increased load needs. Significant investment examples include:

Upgrades to serve the growth to the Evansville Regional Airport

Investments to support customer growth in Warrick County

Infrastructure enhancements to retain and grow jobs and support increased electric load near Toyota's Gibson County manufacturing plant

As a result of hardening the electric system by replacing aging infrastructure, while the number of storm events in the area has increased, the average outage duration associated with equipment failure has dropped by approximately 25% over the last five years.

Smart meter technology and distribution automation investments work together to detect and restore customer outages automatically. Since 2021, our distribution automation system has allowed us to avoid nearly 4 million cumulative minutes of customer outages.

Leger said, "We have worked diligently and responsibly in the 14 years since our last base rate case to make prudent investments and minimize the impact to customers as we continue to perform our essential work. Since 2011 – the last time base rates were modified – CenterPoint Energy's total electric bill has only increased an average of 0.5% per year, which is well below the rate of inflation."

The total requested increase, which directly results from the base rate case filing, of \$118.8 million is expected to impact customer bills no sooner than the fourth quarter of 2024. To prevent the increase from impacting customers all at once,


CenterPoint Energy has proposed a phased approach. If approved, a typical residential customer would experience an estimated increase of \$10.07 (6.5%) in late 2024, an additional \$5.85 (3.6%) in early 2025, and finally \$12.46 (7.3%) in early 2026 due to the request in the rate case. Once all phases are implemented including the full cost of service, which includes projects that would be recovered through current

billing mechanisms, the expected total monthly bill will be approximately \$200, based on average residential consumption of 799-kilowatt hours.

Leger added, "We recognize the economic challenges that many of our customers continue to face, and CenterPoint Energy provides a variety of options to help customers manage their bills, including energy bill assistance, home weatherization and billing assistance programs."

CenterPoint Energy is asking the IURC to review its investments, consider the value customers have received, and approve the proposed recovery of these costs. The regulatory process, which will include a comprehensive review by the IURC as well as the opportunity for the public to provide input, will take several months to complete, with a decision anticipated late in 2024.

More details about the rate can be found at CenterPointEnergy.com to provide customers with information on the rate case process and elements of the filing. Other resources to assist in managing bills year-round can also be found on the site.



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McNAMARA

by Bill Hinds



GET FUZZY

by darby conley



Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 7, 2023

ACROSS

1 Bothers repeatedly

5 Good places to be spotted?

9 Missing from a mil. base

13 Negative response to "We look alike!"

16 Name that anagrams to "name"

17 Be set for life

18 Cool, in old slang

19 Famous ___ cookies

20 Facial steampunk accessory

22 ___ tofu (soft food)

25 CPR pro

26 "C'est la ___"

27 "I don't need to know this!"

28 Kings of ___ ("Use Somebody" band)

31 Wrote software

33 Embassy figure

35 Nonalcoholic ingredient in a mojito

38 Haiku or limerick

39 "Rumor has it ..."

40 "Knives Out" actress Collette

41 Not cower

43 Christmas song

44 More cunning

45 "Star Wars" baddies

47 Four Corners people

48 Colorful pond fish

49 Actress Long

51 Drizzled or poured

53 Lots of wealthy people?

55 Fodder for dad jokes

56 Be the ___ of the joke

57 Where some meet their matches?

62 Singer Guthrie

63 "Very helpful," ironically or not

64 "It's ___ a while"

65 Pig's greeting

66 Imitate

DOWN

1 Org. that funds vaccine research

2 Name that becomes a title when bookended by m's

3 www. healthcare

4 Move quietly

5 "Uncut" (movie title that Julia Fox pronounced "unca jams")

6 Apt anagram of "aye"

7 Small fly

8 Early vehicle with a boiler

9 Clock toggle

10 "Our next appointment is starting soon!"

11 "Oh, by the way ..."

12 Hanukkah pancake

14 Opportunity

15 Leave no ___ unturned

21 Put away, as a carry-on

22 Dance moves

23 Words of uncertainty

24 "Come on, treat yourself!"

29 Org. that inspects factories

30 Christmas songs

32 ___ scientist (tech job)

34 Prefix that means "all"

36 Artist who painted melting watches

37 Irritated

39 "It wasn't for lack of effort on my part!"

42 Metaphorical bit of progress

43 P.F. ___

46 Part of a tree or an elephant

48 Dish with a shish variety

50 Common beer for a sake bomb

52 Scientist Newton

54 Lots

55 Colorfully named singer

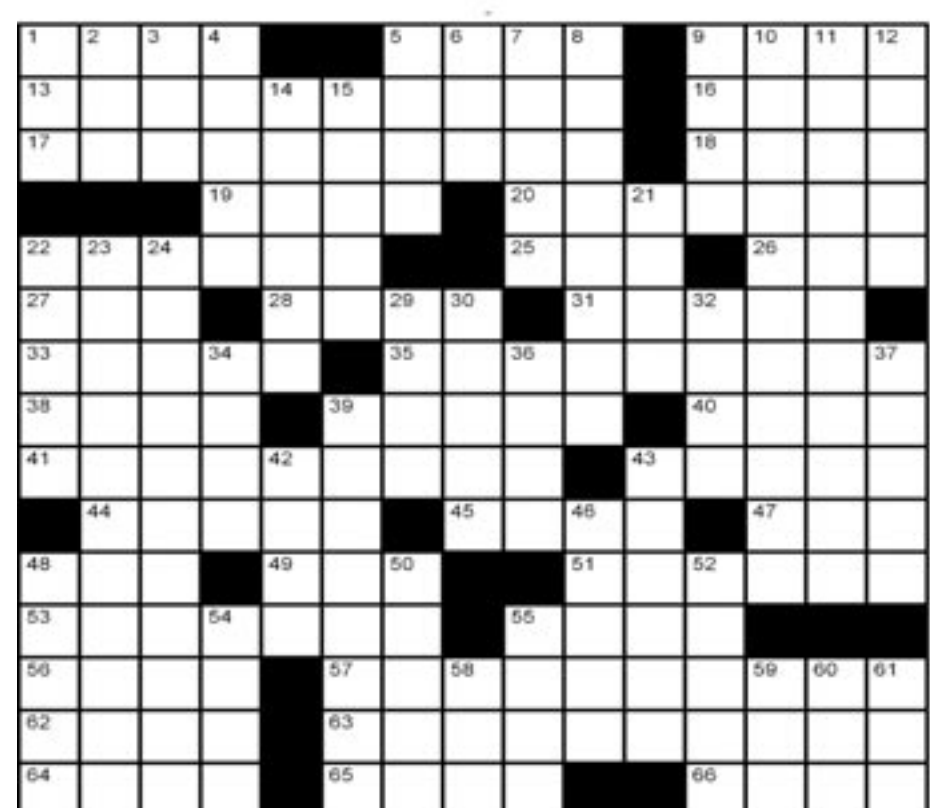
58 Color akin to beige

59 West Bank grp.

60 Dad

61 Pig's residence

Find The
Answers To
This Month's
Puzzle on
Page 14



Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

				5	2			
4				3		1		
				1		6	2	7
	5		8	7		3		2
				4				
1		7		2	3		5	
7	3	9		6				
		2		8				1
			5	9				

12/23

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Political

Terry Announces Transition Team

DECEMBER 2023

Evansville Mayor-elect Stephanie Terry's transition team has begun their work to ensure a smooth change of power in our city. Terry and team members appeared before the media Wednesday afternoon to share progress on many projects underway.

"I'm proud of the group we've put together. Each of these people brings a wealth of diverse experiences to the table and all of them care deeply about our city," said Mayor-Elect Terry. "They are committed to volunteering their time to help us build a strong administration that is focused on working for everyone."

Terry has chosen retired chairman and chief executive officer of Old National Bank, Bob Jones, and the Reverend Adrian Brooks, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, to serve as co-chairs for the transition team.

Other Members Of The Committee Include:

Josh Armstrong: Sr. VP of Economic Development, Evansville Regional Economic Partnership

Melanie Atwood: Chief Advancement Officer, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation

Dr. Linda Bennett: President Emerita, University of Southern Indiana

Abraham Brown: Latino Business Leader

Serita Cabell: Executive Director, Memorial Community Development Corporation

opment Corporation

Dr. Shayla Calhoun: Assistant Principal, Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation

George R. Flowers, Sr.: Chief, Evansville Fire Department (Retired)

Sean Georges: Executive Director, Evansville Wartime Museum

Patrick Jackson: Former Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Joe Kiefer: Member, Vanderburgh County Council and Owner, Hahn Kiefer Real Estate

Amjad Manna: Owner, Manna Restaurant

Jack McNeely: President, Southwest Indiana Building and Construction Trades

Sally Rideout: Owner, Rideout Public Affairs, Inc.

Connie Robinson: Owner, HMR Enterprise, Former Evansville City Councilor

Ben Trockman: Member, Evansville City Council

Sharon Walker: President, The Long View Group, LLC

Brynna Waters: Student, University of Evansville

Greg Wathen: Retired Economic Development professional

Patricia Weinzapfel: Communications Consultant

Eric Williams: Past Vanderburgh County Sheriff

Kip Tew, a partner with the Ice Miller legal firm, is providing pro bono counsel to the committee

based on his years of experience assisting with community leader transitions.

"Co-Chairing the team is a true honor and privilege," said Co-Chair Jones. "It's exciting to work with such a capable team of people working together to help guide our city into the next era of leadership."

Co-Chair Brooks added, "As a long-time supporter of the Mayor-elect, working alongside her side to kick off a successful first 100 days is the next step in continued efforts to create a prosperous Evansville for everyone."

"I'm confident this team will help us lay a foundation for a smooth change of power from Mayor Winnecke and his staff," said Mayor-Elect Terry. "They will help me establish an administration that is collaborative, inclusive, and full of hope and possibilities."

The committee unveiled a new website Wednesday afternoon - www.teamevansville.com Anyone interested in serving the Terry administration can learn more and apply for paid or volunteer roles.

Terry is set to take the oath of office on January 1, 2024. The official swearing-in ceremony for the Mayor and all newly elected city officeholders will take place at Bosse High School at noon. The public is invited to attend.



Applications Now Open For Indiana Senate Page Program

DECEMBER 2023

The Indiana Senate is now accepting applications for the 2024 Senate Page Program, said State Sen. Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville).

Through the full-day program, students in grades six through 12 tour Indiana's Statehouse, listen to debates and help staff with age-appropriate tasks. Students also have the opportunity to meet their state senator.

"Each year, I meet so many bright young Hoosiers from Senate District 50 as they visit us at the Statehouse through this program," Becker said. "This is truly a valuable experience for any student, and I strongly encourage them to apply."

The Senate Page Program will begin in January and run through February. Pages are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session. They begin their day at 8:30 a.m. and are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. Groups serve together on Wednesdays. Serving as a page is considered an excused absence from school. Positions fill quickly, so it is important to apply early.

For more information or to apply, visit www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program.

AG Rokita's Litigation Team Wins 100% Of Jury Trials In '23

DECEMBER 2023

Attorney General Todd Rokita today congratulated members of his office's litigation team, which won 100 percent of the eight jury trials in which it defended the state's interests in 2023.

"To achieve a 100 percent success rate in these proceedings demonstrates both the integrity of the entities we defend and the skills of the lawyers working at this office," Attorney General Rokita said. "Not only do these wins save money for Indiana taxpayers, but they also provide peace of mind to citizens who want to see justice prevail."

As the State of Indiana's law firm, the Office of Attorney General's dedicated litigators represent the state and its agencies,



officials, elected leaders, and employees in a wide variety of legal proceedings — including federal and state jury trials. Every day, the office fights to protect the legal interests of the state and its citizens and defend the rule of law.

By securing the state's legal victories in all of its federal and state jury trials, Attorney General Rokita's government litigation team saved Hoosier taxpayers well into the six figures, said Chief Counsel of Litigation Patricia Erdmann.

Besides the jury trial wins, the team also has saved millions through ongoing successful advocacy and motion practice in other cases. Working under Erdmann, Section Chief Adrienne Pope oversees government litigation.

Attorney General Rokita thanked both Erdmann and Pope for their strong leadership and effective oversight of litigation strategy and jury trial arguments.

"Hoosiers can rest assured they are in good hands when it comes to the professional litigators representing their state government in legal matters," Attorney General Rokita said. "I am proud every day to work with individuals who serve this state with servants' hearts."

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Education

UE Among 34 Educator Prep Programs Recognized

DECEMBER 2023

WASHINGTON – The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced today that the University of Evansville (UE) is one of 34 providers from 24 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to receive accreditation for their educator preparation programs. The Fall 2023 review by the CAEP Accreditation Council resulted in 34 educator preparation providers receiving accreditation, bringing the total to 551 providers approved under the CAEP Accreditation Standards - rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

"These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate," said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. "Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider."

CAEP is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring



quality and promoting improvement. CAEP is a unified accreditation system intent on raising the performance of all institutions focused on educator preparation. Approximately, 600 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP Accreditation system, including some previously accredited through former standards.

UE's Education department is continuously recognized nationally, including a recent award from the National Council on Teacher Quality,

earning an "A" grade for its undergraduate teacher preparation program.

In May, UE also launched an accelerated Master's of Science in Education: Educational Administration degree after receiving approval from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE).

"Our students and faculty and staff should be very proud of the work they are doing. We've set a very high bar for our teacher prep program and CAEP Accreditation validates the

hard work we are doing," said Dr. Allison Jones, Co-Department Chair / Assistant Professor of Education. "Our students and their families are investing in an education program that is designated as nationally accredited for teacher preparation."

UE joins 33 other providers to receive accreditation this fall, bringing the total number to 551 CAEP-accredited providers from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates.

USI To Host FIRST LEGO League Semi-State Challenge

DECEMBER 2023

The University of Southern Indiana's Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center is hosting the FIRST LEGO League Semi-State Challenge on Sunday, December 10 at the USI Screaming Eagles Arena. Over 45 Indiana teams will be participating. The event is open to the public at no charge.

The event will kick off with a parade of teams at 8:30 a.m. At 10 a.m., the Robot Game will begin, where teams demonstrate months of hard work in designing and coding their LEGO robots.

The challenge is sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana, the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and AstraZeneca. Volunteers from local businesses, industries and academia will be on hand to serve as judges, STEM exhibitors and Robot Game officials.

FIRST LEGO League is an international robotics program that chal-

lenges children from ages 9 to 14 to think critically, solve problems and develop real-world solutions using robotics and technology. This year's theme is "Masterpiece," which encourages teams to imagine and innovate new ways to create and communicate art across the globe.

The Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center is a STEM outreach initiative at the University of Southern Indiana that is committed to advancing excellence and equity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education within the PK-12 community in southern Indiana. Its mission is to inspire and empower educators, students, and families by providing innovative resources, collaborative outreach opportunities and professional development that foster a lifelong passion for learning and discovery in STEM fields.

For more information, visit USI's FIRST LEGO League website.

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Education

USI To Hold Two Commencement Ceremonies

DECEMBER 2023

The University of Southern Indiana will host two Fall Commencement Ceremonies on Saturday, December 16 in the Screaming Eagles Arena.

The 10 a.m. The Commencement Ceremony will recognize graduates from the College of Nursing and Health Professions; the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education; and the School of Graduate Studies. The 1 p.m. Commencement Ceremony will recognize graduates from the College of Liberal Arts; the Romain College of Business; and the School of Graduate Studies.

Tickets will not be required for guests, and a livestream of each Ceremony will be available at USI.edu/watch-commencement.

Dr. Jill Raisor '03, Professor of Education and 2023 Distinguished Professor Award recipient, will present the Commencement Address at 10 a.m. Ceremony. Raisor joined the USI faculty full-time in 2010 as a Teacher in Residence, and throughout her tenure has served as a Children's Learning

Center Liaison and Coordinator, Chair of Teacher Education, and now as Professor of Education. She is recognized for her tireless service to students, teaching, and scholarship, as well as her vast work in the community. Dr. Mark Krahling, Associate Professor of Chemistry and the 2023 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award recipient, will deliver the

Commencement Address at the 1 p.m. Ceremony. Krahling joined the University in 1994 and has served as Director of the University Core Curriculum and Associate Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, in addition to his current role as Associate

Professor. He is recognized for his nearly 30 years of service as a professor, scholar, and leader in the Core Curriculum at USI.

During Fall Commencement Ceremonies, 681 students will be eligible to receive master's degrees, post-bachelor certificates, bachelor's degrees and associate degrees. As part of the Ceremonies, 107 students

are graduating with academic honors: 14 will graduate summa cum laude, 52 magna cum laude and 41 cum laude. Of the graduates, 11 are University Honors Scholars students who have completed the Honors Program and will be recognized by the white honor cords worn

with their regalia.

All planning to attend are strongly advised to review the Screaming Eagles Arena Prohibited Items and Security Policy.

Follow the Ceremonies on social media with the hashtag #USIGrad on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok.

FOOTNOTE: Founded in 1965, the University of Southern Indiana enrolls nearly 9,300 dual credit, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students in more than 130 areas of study. A public higher education institution, located on a beautiful 1,400-acre campus in Evansville, Indiana, USI offers programs through the College of Liberal Arts, Romain College of Business, College of Nursing and Health Professions, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and School of Graduate Studies. USI is a Carnegie Foundation Community Engaged University and offers continuing education and special programs to more than 15,000 participants annually through Outreach and Engagement. USI is online at www.usi.edu.



Contemporary Digital Portraiture Exhibit On Display At USI New Harmony Gallery Of Contemporary Art

DECEMBER 2023

Back Gallery Projects at the University of Southern Indiana's New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art (NHGCA) is proud to present Contemporary Digital Portraiture. This exhibition showcases the work of students in USI's Digital Illustration course. Contemporary Digital Portraiture will be on display Saturday, November 11 through Saturday, December 16 with a reception 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, December 2 in conjunction with Christmas in New Harmony. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

"This project challenged students to create several digital portraits using different illustration styles such as WPAP, Fleischer, Granular Gradient, Flat or Line and Shadow," says Dr. Gregory Blair, Assistant Professor of Art and Design. "Each portrait was created from a photograph using only a mouse in Adobe Illustrator.



The project focused on learning how to build a portrait illustration

from a reference image, how to use Pantone color books and

further development of abstraction processes and value mapping."

Student artists include Kayla Allen, Ali Brandes, Caitlyn Ebert, Cierra Fitzgerald, Allie Gee, Iain Girtten, Isabel Greiner, Sara Griffin, Aidan Hoover, Lily Hubbard, Mason Niemeier, Jenna Norrick, Mikayla Satterfield and Al Sheets.

The NHGCA is dedicated to enhancing the experiences of students through an artist-run exhibition space in the Back Gallery. Back Gallery Projects at NHGCA allows students to exhibit, experiment and/or curate within a working contemporary art gallery setting. Through exhibition and curatorial strategies, students can envision new possibilities for collaborations and their art practice.

NHGCA promotes discourse about and access to contemporary art in the Southern Indiana region.

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Sports

Eagles Run Out Of Time Versus Bowling Green State

DECEMBER 2023

EVANSVILLE – University of Southern Indiana Men's Basketball ran out of time and lost to Bowling Green State University, 54-52, Saturday afternoon at Screaming Eagles Arena. The Screaming Eagles slide to 2-7 after today's action, while the Falcons are 5-3 this season.

The Eagles and the Falcons traded buckets and leads through the first eight minutes of the game, until Bowling Green used an 8-0 run to take a 15-9 lead with 8:41 left.

A pair of buckets by sophomore guard Jack Champion (Milton, Wisconsin) sparked a 10-4 run by the Eagles to knot the game 19-19 with 3:41 left in the half. The USI run would extend to 19-6 as the Eagles took a 28-21 lead into halftime after junior forward Jack Mielke (Downers Grove, Illinois) and junior guard Jeremiah Hernandez (Chicago, Illinois) hit back-to-back three-pointers in the final minute of the half.

Hernandez led the USI charge to the halftime lead with seven points, five coming during the late



first half the run. Champion, Mielke, and sophomore forward Kiyron Powell (Evansville, Indiana) had six points each to follow Hernandez in the scoring column. Powell also led the Eagles defensively with three first half blocks.

In the second half, USI and Bowling Green came out sluggish on the offensive ends with both teams combining for one-of-11 from the field. The Falcons' offense would spark with a 6-0 run to regain the

lead, 34-33, with 10:59 to play in the game.

After trading leads over the next three minutes, Bowling Green took the lead for good with 7:59 to play, 38-37, and built a six-point lead with 2:20 remaining, 51-45. USI tried to rally, cutting the deficit to one point at 51-50 on a free throw by Powell and 53-52 on a pair of charity shots by Champion, but could not get a game tying shot off in the final second before falling

54-52.

Hernandez had a chance to send the game into overtime, hitting a shot from the left corner, but time had expired.

For the game, Hernandez led USI with 15 points in the game. Powell, who recorded his first USI double-double with a team-best 10 rebounds, and Mielke followed Hernandez in the scoring column with 11 points each.

Eagles Exit OVC Championship In Loss To EIU

DECEMBER 2023

CHARLESTON, Ill. –University of Southern Indiana Volleyball (15-16, 10-8 OVC) had its season come to a close after falling in the Ohio Valley Conference Championship semifinal match to No. 1 Eastern Illinois University (27-4, 15-3 OVC) at Lantz Arena Tuesday, 3-0 (25-19, 25-14, 26-24). The Screaming Eagles impressed the USI faithful by earning 14 more wins than last season and clinching their first-ever postseason berth in the NCAA Division I era.

USI could not keep up with the Panthers' offense, falling 25-19 in the opening set. The Eagles got the scoring started with a kill from junior middle hitter Paris Downing (Avon, Indiana) that helped USI stay close with EIU, 5-5. The Panthers caught some momentum and scored five of the next six points to take an early lead. The Eagles cut the deficit in half with the help of a kill from senior outside hitter Leah Anderson (Bloomington, Illinois) before the Panthers went on another run that extended

their lead to 14-8. Trailing 19-13, USI sparked by scoring six of the next eight points to cut the deficit to just two. Even after the late rally, the Eagles allowed three straight kills to drop the first set. EIU posted a massive 17 kills compared to USI's nine kills. However, the Eagles did record four blocks and two aces.

A tough set from start to finish leads to a 25-14 loss for USI in the second frame. The Panthers scored five of the first six points of the set until the Eagles added some insurance and ran the score up to 6-4. EIU went on a quick 4-0 run until USI's defense forced a pair of attacking errors to keep it close at 10-6. The Panthers would then go on a 6-0 surge that caught the Eagles lacking and put EIU up by 10. USI would get something rolling after getting three kills from Downing and one from junior outside hitter Abby Weber (Fishers, Indiana) to put the score to 19-11. Weber and sophomore middle hitter Bianca Anderson (Chicago Heights, Illinois) posted back-to-back kills later in

the frame, but it was not enough to start a comeback. USI recorded nine kills and 10 errors with a negative attacking percentage. Both sides were protective at the net as the Panthers nabbed five blocks and the Eagles threw down three blocks.

A more competitive set resulted in a 26-24 loss for the Eagles and ended their season. The Panthers pounced early with four straight points and would hold a 6-3 advantage until a 4-0 run from USI flipped the script. Leah Anderson kicked off the run with a kill followed by three offensive miscues from EIU. After the Panthers knotted it up at 12 apiece, the Eagles turned around and posted three straight points with the help of a Bianca Anderson kill and a Weber ace to go up 15-12. With USI leading 17-16, EIU gained some momentum with a 4-0 run to take a three-point lead. Not being phased, the Eagles returned the favor with their own 4-0 surge off three errors from EIU and a kill from Downing to give USI a 21-20 advantage. Both sides traded

points until the Panthers posted back-to-back kills to seal the match. EIU recorded a match-high 18 kills while USI put up their match-high of 14 kills and just four errors to secure a 0.278 hitting percentage which was the highest recorded by either team.

Downing was the lone Eagle to produce double-digit kills and also led the team in blocks with 11 kills and five blocks. Bianca Anderson put up big numbers for USI with seven kills and four blocks while Weber led the team with two aces. Junior setter Carly Sobieralski (Indianapolis, Indiana) threw up 27 assists while sophomore libero/defensive specialist Keira Moore (Newburgh, Indiana) recorded a team-high 13 digs for her 11th-straight double-digit dig performance.

As a team, the Eagles had 32 kills, 31 assists, and three aces with 45 digs and 10 blocks. The Panthers recorded 46 kills, 43 assists, and six aces to pair with 50 digs and nine blocks.

USI Women's Soccer Adds Transfer Grafton For 2024

DECEMBER 2023

EVANSVILLE – University of Southern Indiana Women's Soccer announced the addition of sophomore midfielder Emerson Grafton to the roster for the 2024 season.

Grafton, sister of USI defender Charli Grafton (Sunriver, Oregon), is a transfer who spent her first two collegiate seasons at Idaho State University. The Camas, Washington native is the 11th signing for the Screaming Eagles and Head Coach Eric Schoenstein ahead of the 2024 campaign.

"We are excited to welcome Emerson

to the USI Soccer family," Schoenstein said. "Emerson is a crafty midfielder, who brings a great deal of toughness and Division I experience."

From 2022 to 2023, Grafton totaled 24 starts in 35 appearances and over 2,000 minutes played. The 5'6" attacker scored two goals with 25 shots and 14 shots on target.

Before Idaho State, Grafton was a four-time all-state selection in high school. Plus, she was all-state in cross country and a state champion in track and field.



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Sports

Aces Pull Out Overtime Win Over UNI, 91-89

DECEMBER 2023

EVANSVILLE – Feeding off the enthusiasm of over 5,000 fans at the Ford Center, the University of Evansville men's basketball team outdueled the University of Northern Iowa, earning an 91-89 overtime victory.

Evansville had the upper hand throughout most of the first half, leading by 10 points before UNI took over in the second half, taking a 7-point edge. Forty minutes was not enough to decide things as a late Panther basket forced overtime. In the extra period, the lead changed hands seven times, but it was the Purple Aces who pulled off the win.

"(UNI head coach) Ben Jacobson is the standard in the Missouri Valley Conference, it doesn't matter what year it is, they play the same quality basketball," UE head coach David Ragland said. "Our guys kept fighting, clawing and did whatever they could to come out on top and I am proud of the group."

Antonio Thomas had the best Division I performance of his career, tallying 27 points. He was 8-of-11 from the field and 9-for-10 from the line. His top collegiate scoring output of 29 came in his time at Kentucky Wesleyan. He added 5 rebounds and 5 assists. Ben Humrichous scored 18 points while Joshua Hughes scored 11. Tanner Cuff registered 9 points and a team-high 7 rebounds. Tytan Anderson led UNI with 20 points while Nate Heise scored 19.

"Our main goal was to stay focused and bounce back. We went into practice that next day and worked on our mistakes," Thomas exclaimed. "It was good to hit some shots today and I credit my team for trusting me with the ball in my hands."

Cam Haffner opened the day with a pair of 3-pointers to give the Aces a 6-5 edge. A basket from Ben Humrichous and two Antonio Thomas free throws extended the lead to 10-5. Joshua Hughes converted a long 2-pointer in a run that was capped off by a triple from Gage Bobe that extended the lead to 19-9 at the 12:07 mark.



Over the next four minutes, the Panthers chipped away at the UE lead, closing to 21-16 with the half entering its final nine minutes. UNI got even closer when a field goal by Tytan Anderson closed the gap to 24-20 inside of six minutes left. Antonio Thomas scored on the ensuing possession before a layup from Tanner Cuff pushed the lead back to eight (28-20) with 4:55 showing on the clock.

Limited to 20 points through the first 15 minutes of the game, Northern Iowa scored 17 in the final minutes to retake the lead entering halftime. Scoring nine of the next ten points, the Panthers tied the game at 29-29 less than two minutes later before going up 33-30. Four in a row by the Aces put them back up 34-33 as Thomas and Cuff each hit shots. The final minute saw UNI counter with four in a row to head into halftime with a 37-34 advantage.

Ben Humrichous was held to just two points in the first half, but scored five in the first 3+ minutes of the second. His offensive rebound and score made it a 1-point game before a triple with 16:40 remaining tie the score at

43-43. Seconds later, Haffner gave Evansville its first lead of the second half at 45-44.

Up 48-47, Northern Iowa posted eight of the next ten to take their largest lead at 56-49. Hughes continued a perfect 4-for-4 start as a dunk completed a 6-0 run to make it a 56-55 game entering the last 11 minutes. The Panthers would once again push the lead back out to six points at 63-57 with eight minutes left and that is when it began to rain triples.

Humrichous converted back-to-back triples to cut the UNI lead to 66-65, but both times the Panthers countered with long balls of their own to go back up four. Antonio Thomas connected on a triple shortly after before he and Tanner Cuff converted on another basket to put Evansville in front – 72-71 – with 3:22 left. In the final minutes of regulation, the Aces would go up by three on two occasions, but a shot with seven second on the clock saw the Panthers tie it to force overtime.

An exciting overtime session ensued with the lead changing hands seven times. Neither team backed down, but it was Evans-

ville who came through in the end. With 1:38 remaining in OT, Antonio Thomas drained his second triple to give UE an 86-84 lead and they would never give up that advantage. After UNI made one free throw on their next trip down the floor, a turnover by UE gave the ball right back. With 35 ticks on the clock, Humrichous blocked a Panther attempt and the dagger came from Tanner Cuff. His 3-pointer with seven seconds left put the Aces up 89-85 and UE would go on to win by a 91-89 final.

"I am grateful that Antonio and my team trusted me to take that shot," Cuff explained when detailing the late triple. "I work on my shooting all the time and just knew it was going in."

Evansville completed the game shooting 54.5% from the field with UNI checking in at 50.0%. The Aces had a 34-29 edge in the boards. There were 13 lead changed and eight ties in the contest.

BYU is next up for the Aces as they will tangle on Tuesday in Provo, Utah. The Cougars enter the game with a 7-0 record and were ranked 19th in both national polls last week.



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Obituaries

November Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home’s Webpage
ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME

East	
Joyce Ann Scruggs	Sep. 06, 1932 – Nov. 03, 2023
Larry Earl Gates	Feb. 27, 1938 – Nov. 05, 2023
Jeffrey Charles Puthoff	Dec. 08, 1960 – Nov. 08, 2023
Zelma “Jean” Culver	Mar. 17, 1945 – Nov. 16, 2023
Andre Bowen	Oct. 23, 1973 – Nov. 19, 2023
Louise Faye Wilson	Oct. 30, 1941 0 Nov. 22, 2023
Linda Pride	Nov. 06, 1939 – Nov. 26, 2023
Ilene V. Fleming	Oct. 11, 1920 – Nov. 26, 2023

West	
Dr. Gerald “Jerry” T. Jessee	Oct. 30, 1937 – Nov. 01, 2023
Leo H Greenwood	Mar. 22, 1938 – Nov. 04, 2023
Patricia “Pat” Ruth Nance	Jul. 05, 1934 – Nov. 06, 2023
Randall Keith Devine	Feb. 28, 1952 – Nov. 08, 2023
Pat Seipert	Dec. 08, 1933 – Nov. 09, 2023
David Hudson	Jul. 23, 1945 – Nov. 09, 2023
Carole June Mueller	Jul. 31, 1942 – Nov. 14, 2023
Sharon Gail Cota	Sep. 03, 1939 – Nov. 13, 2023
Evelyn Mae Snyder	Jul. 30, 1923 – Nov. 20, 2023
Sandra Jeanne Savage	Jan. 19, 1947 – Nov. 22, 2023
Patricia “Patty” Ann Brown	Jan. 05, 1948 – Nov. 26, 2023
Fay J. Reine	Sep. 07, 1935 – Nov. 28, 2023
Jay Randall Burton	Jun. 28, 1963 – Nov. 30, 2023

North	
David Allen Coomer	Nov. 16, 2023 – Nov. 08, 2023
Barbara Ann Fisher	Feb. 19, 1938 – Nov. 08, 2023
Kimberly Ann Edwards	Apr. 03, 1959 – Nov. 15, 2023
Carol Sue Mills	Feb. 13, 1943 – Nov. 18, 2023
Sharon Grace Beccia	May 17, 1954 – Nov. 20, 2023
Olga B. Chapman	Feb. 19, 1929 – Nov. 26, 2023
William Henry Schmidt	Jan. 10, 1925 – Nov. 29, 2023

BOONE FUNERAL HOME	
Beverly Weyer	Feb 17, 1935 – Nov. 01, 2023
Deborah Carlene “Debbie” Sheese	Apr. 18, 1956 – Nov. 03, 2023
Carmon Willis	Sep. 14, 1937 – Nov. 04, 2023
Myrtle Huddleston	May 18, 1932 – Nov. 09, 2023
David “Dave” Thomason	Nov. 18, 1969 – Nov. 10, 2023
Bonita Culver	Mar. 24, 1955 – Nov. 10, 2023
Darrel Uhde	Oct. 06, 1962 – Nov. 10, 2023
Elizabeth Flittner	Sep. 14, 2023 – Nov. 11, 2023
Phyllis Ridenour	Jun. 30, 1941 – Nov. 12, 2023
Daniel D. “Dan” Ditzer	Jan. 18, 1933 – Nov. 16, 2023
Ronda June	Jun. 13, 1958 – Nov. 19, 2023
Deacon Sergiu “Chris” Vlas	Mar. 20, 1973 – Nov. 20, 2023
Rebecca Anne “Becky” Tarrants	Aug. 25, 1949 – Nov. 22, 2023
Marilyn Green	May 30, 1953 – Nov. 24, 2023
Barbara Renshaw	May 03, 1941 – Nov. 30, 2023
Sandra Millard	May 02, 1937 – Nov. 30, 2023

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES	
Harris Ray Roach	Jul. 04, 1933 – Nov. 07, 2023
Megan K. Flahardy	Jan. 12, 1989 – Nov. 12, 2023
Hazel Louise Gray	Jun. 26, 1934 – Nov. 12, 2023
Patricia Lowery	Nov. 13, 1956 – Nov. 12, 2023
Marlon M Winstead	Jun. 23, 1974 – Nov. 14, 2023
Duanita Gayle Smith	Nov. 09, 1953 – Nov. 19, 2023

Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Dec.'23

8	7	1	6	5	2	4	3	9
4	2	6	7	3	9	1	8	5
3	9	5	4	1	8	6	2	7
9	5	4	8	7	6	3	1	2
2	8	3	1	4	5	7	9	6
1	6	7	9	2	3	8	5	4
7	3	9	2	6	1	5	4	8
5	4	2	3	8	7	9	6	1
6	1	8	5	9	4	2	7	3

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PIERRE FUNERAL HOME	
Marilyn Elizabeth Schuler	Feb. 02, 1944 – Nov. 01, 2023
Delbert L Fluty	Dec. 28, 1933 – Nov. 02, 2023
Danny Lee Thomas	Feb. 01, 1972 – Nov. 02, 2023
Francis Joan Morehead	Mar. 12, 1931 – Nov. 05, 2023
Norton B. McDaniel	Jun. 20, 1947 – Nov. 05, 2023
Charles Stephen Moore	Jun. 02, 1947 - Nov. 06, 2023
Marlene Ann Sollman	Dec. 17, 1951 – Nov. 07, 2023
Lee J. Porter	Jul. 02, 1966 – Nov. 07, 2023
Brenda Sue Ramsey	Aug. 04, 1956 – Nov. 07, 2023
Richard J Nunning	Sep. 26, 1935 – Nov. 07, 2023
Elizabeth Lockyear	May 01, 19345 – Nov. 10, 2023
David Holder	Jul. 17, 1945 – Nov. 10, 2023
Marilyn J. Monarch	Jun. 07, 1930 – Nov. 11, 2023
Roberty Alen Lutz	Aug. 09, 1974 – Nov. 11, 2023
Todd Ferguson	Apr. 13, 1975 – Nov. 14, 2023
Debra J. McClaughry	Jun. 02, 1951 – Nov. 15, 2023
Betty Jane Schutte	Jun. 21, 1929 – Nov. 16, 2023
Cheryl Lynn Barnett	Jan. 29, 1957 – Nov. 16, 2023
Ruth Marie Orman	Jan. 27, 1928 – Nov. 16, 2023
Nancy A. Potter	Jun. 05, 1949 – Nov. 18, 2023
Richard E. Mahrenholz	Dec. 22, 1940 – Nov. 18, 2023
Mary L. Dooley	Nov. 20, 1927 – Nov. 20, 2023
Dixie Anne Barger	Dec. 17, 1940 – Nov. 25, 2023
Norman R. Shockley	Jan. 21, 1941 –Nov. 28, 2023
Lisa A. Ziliak	Jan. 15, 1990 – Nov. 28, 2023

ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME	
Thomas Wesley Ricketts	Nov. 24, 1964 – Nov. 03, 2023
Phyllis Ann Maddox	Feb. 08, 1953 – Nov. 04, 2023
Audrey J. Boarman	Apr. 22, 1933 – Nov. 05, 2023
Frances Therese Martin	Mar. 10, 1933 – Nov. 05, 2023
Charlene A. Parker	Mar. 11, 1029 – Nov. 05, 2023
Janice R. Lee	Feb. 12, 1931 – Nov. 07, 2023
William “Bill” Evans	Feb. 28, 1956 – Nov. 08, 2023
Donald S. Neidig	Jul. 17, 1935 – Nov. 08, 2023
Reba Jerlene “Jeerri” Grider	Aug, 12, 1927 – Nov. 09, 2023
Lois Petitjean	Dec. 10, 1942 – Nov. 13, 2023
Ruth E. Wagner	May 29, 1928 – Nov. 15, 2023
Bety Louise Behagg	Dec. 06, 1957 – Nov. 16, 2023
Nelda Arzella Todd Knott	Aug. 14, 1929 – Nov. 16, 2023
Ruth Ann Miller	Jun. 08, 1921 – Nov. 18, 2023
Larry Norrington	Aug. 05, 1949 – Nov. 18, 2023
Carolyn Sue Waller	Jul. 17, 1941 – Nov. 21, 2023
Thurman Carnal	Jul. 06, 1916 – Nov. 22, 2023
Virginia M Gregory	Jan. 11, 1930 – Nov. 23, 2023
Kelly Polster	Sep. 19, 1968 – Nov. 26, 2023
Linda Karen Boink	Sep. 13, 1952 – Nov. 28, 2023
Dolores M Cashman	Oct. 15, 1928 – Nov. 28, 2023

N	A	G	S			G	Y	M	S		A	W	O	L
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T	M	I		L	E	O	N		C	O	D	E	D	
E	N	V	O	Y		S	O	D	A	W	A	T	E	R
P	O	E	M		I	H	E	A	R		T	O	N	I
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	S	L	I	E	R		S	I	T	H		U	T	E
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B	E	E	N		O	I	N	K			C	O	P	Y

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Receive PRINTED ENTRIES by checking in at any Promotional Kiosk any time between 2PM - 8:55PM CT.

DRAWING TIMES: 4PM - 8:45PM
UNCLAIMED CASH DRAWING: 9PM

LEGEND TIER MEMBERS RECEIVE 3 ENTRIES
SUPERSTAR TIER MEMBERS RECEIVE 2 ENTRIES
ALL OTHER CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE 1 ENTRY

TABLE PLAYERS, TABLE PLAYERS, TABLE PLAYERS, TABLE PLAYERS, TABLE PLAYERS, THIS DRAWING IS FOR YOU!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

Between 6AM - 11:30AM CT, check in at any Promotional Kiosk to receive your entries based on your previous Table Gaming activity.

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5X

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3X

BALLY BUCKS AND TIER POINTS

ALL OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WILL EARN

2X

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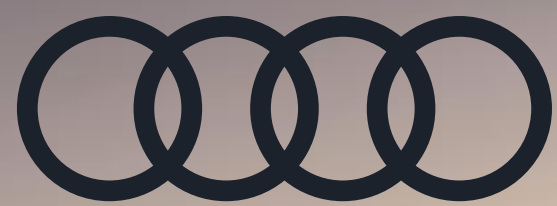
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